

# ALEXANDRE

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ON VIEW: Youth and Charm

By EDITH NEWHALL

The painter Loren MacIver (1908-1998) once wrote that she aimed to “make something permanent out of the transitory... Certain moments have the gift of revealing the past and foretelling the future.” One early MacIver painting, “Red Votive Lights,” included in the Morgan Library’s “Pierre Matisse and His Artists” through May 19, does just that. Even better, a concurrent gallery exhibition, “Loren MacIver: The First Matisse Years” offers a near-facsimile of MacIver’s first exhibition at Matisse’s gallery. Both shows are opportunities to experience her impact as a young artist, which was formidable: Alfred Stieglitz wrote a catalogue essay for her first solo show, at the East River Gallery, and by the age of 32, she’d sold a painting to the Museum of Modern Art and had her second solo show, with Matisse. Her unique style was already evident in the luminous images from her everyday life in Cape Cod, Key West, and New York’s Greenwich Village. As with so many early bloomers, she was self-taught, and by all accounts her art came to her as easily as breathing. “I never thought of painting as a career,” she once said. “I cannot tell you how casual it was. I just like to paint.”

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